

7-31-2010

Wedding Singer

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the wedding singer

The Musical Comedy

July 31, August 1, 6 and 7, 2010

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The Center for Performing Arts at Governors State University
and SLATE (Southland Area Theatre Ensemble) present

The Wedding Singer

Directed by J.R. ROSE

Stage Manager, Technical Director RONALD P. BOWDEN, JR.

Vocal and Music Direction by KYLE SEVERSON

Choreographed by MARY COURSEY BAYLE

Scenic Design by KEVIN WALL

Costume Design and Coordination by DIANA PRINCIPE

Lighting Design by RONALD P. BOWDEN, JR.

Set Properties and Decorations by JUDITH E. FELIX

Production Manager MARCIA J. GRING

Asst. Stage Manager STEPHANIE JONES

Asst. Choreographer and Dance Cpt. JESSICA CARPENTER

Asst. Lighting Design / Board Operator IAN O'LEARY

Deck Captain CLIFF FELIX

CPA/SLATE Production Coordinator JANE COX

Orchestra Contractor MIKE HERITAGE

SLATE Running Crew:

Andrea Curry, Ianthe Belisle-Dempsey, Sam Kearney,
Rachel Latsos, Miho Nakamura, Emre Pruitt, John Van Ort,
Jordan Bos Watson

SLATE Building Crew:

Ron Bowden, Ianthe Belisle-Dempsey, Stephanie Jones, Rachel Latsos,
Ian O'Leary, Tynika Simpson, John Van Ort, Kevin Wall, Jordan Bos Watson,
the McGrady family, and the entire cast and staff of *The Wedding Singer*.

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CPA Technical Director MICHAEL KRULL

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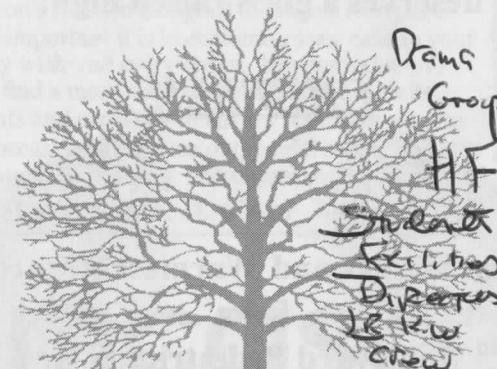
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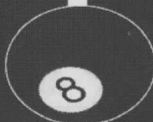
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**the wedding
singer**

The Musical Comedy

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The Wedding Singer

Linda.....	Sarah Bright
Donny / David Fonda / Tuxedo Man 1	Fidel Calderon*
Shane / Harold Fonda / Tuxedo Man 2	Andrew Calderon*
Debbie Fonda / Bridesmaid 1.....	Jessica Carpenter*
Julia.....	Mandi Carrao
Donatella McDonough / Cyndi Lauper	Brittany Clifton
Flight Agent	Shelby Critchett*
Sammy.....	Vasily Deris
Bum / Cousin Steve.....	Nico Garcia*
Uncle Lou / Mr. T / Tuxedo Man 3.....	Alex Glover*
Angie.....	Dana Griffin
First Waiter / Loser Guy.....	John Guyman
Ricky.....	Christopher Kelley*
Glen.....	Nate Krug
Bridesmaid 3 / Glen's Girl.....	Samantha Lewis*
Holly.....	Anne Litchfield
Robbie.....	Charlie Lubeck
Sideburns Lady / Tiffany / Mrs. Reagan.....	Kate Matthews
Father of the Bride / Reagan.....	Jim McGrady
Rosie.....	Michelle McKenzie-Voigt
George.....	Nick Narcisi
Priest / Billy Idol.....	John Neubauer
Junior Secretary / Bridesmaid 2	Jazmyn Reyes*
Mookie / Bad Haircut Guy.....	Jonathan Schaffer
Clerk / Glen's Secretary.....	Angela Southall*
Tina Turner / Crystal / Large Lady.....	LaTasha Southall
Imelda Marcos	Joanna Vaickus

* Donates DANCE CORE ENSEMBLE



Conductor / Keyboard 2	Kyle Severson
Keyboard 1	Tom Venutolo
Drums	Tom Gilman
Bass	Bob Gloppen
Guitar 1	Larry Sidlow
Guitar 2	Tim Burns
Trumpet	Brian Scott
Keyboard 3	Jenise Galloway
Reeds & Winds Team.....	Elliot Cobb & Anna Beamsley

Who's Who in the Cast (in alphabetic order)

Sarah Bright [Linda] Sarah Bright, most recently seen as Gabby/Bobbi in The Drama Group's production of *City of Angels*, is pleased to be making her SLATE debut. Other Chicago credits include roles with The Artistic Home, Light Opera Works, Metropolis Performing Arts Center, The Drama Group, and Village Players. Before moving to Chicago, she performed in English productions of *California Suite* (Hannah), *Annie* (Grace Farrell), *Godspell* (Joanne), and *Grease* (Rizzo) in Germany. Other favorite roles include Violet in *Violet*, Yonah in *Children of Eden*, and Titania in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Sarah is also the co-creator of Zombie Apocalypse Training, the only fitness classes guaranteed to prepare you for the zombie apocalypse.

Andrew Calderon [ensemble] Andrew will be a senior at Alan B. Shepard High School in the fall. At Shepard he is on the Varsity Volleyball team and sings bass with the Nova Show Choir. Andrew recently played Conrad in *Bye Bye Birdie* and in his free time enjoys rollerblading and hanging out with his friends. He would like to dedicate this to his mom so she will buy him a car.

Fidel Calderon [ensemble] Fidel is currently enrolled at University of St. Francis' nursing program. Fidel is excited to be in his first production with SLATE theatre. He was recently seen in productions of *City of Angels*, *Grease* and *Damn Yankees*. Fidel enjoys drinking brews at Chicago Fire games while simultaneously rooting for the Cubs and Blackhawks. He would like to dedicate this to his family.

Jessica Carpenter [ensemble, dance captain] Jessica is thrilled to be appearing in her first performance for SLATE. She has been very active with The Drama Group in Chicago Heights and is grateful to be a part of the new, impressive ensemble that is SLATE. She was recently seen in The Drama Group's *City of Angels* as a featured dancer and *Rent* as Mark's Mom and ensemble. She thanks her parents and friends for their support and encouragement as she continues to follow her passion for theater. She raises her glass to the talented cast, dancers, and crew - Cheers!!

Brittany Clifton [ensemble] Brittany Clifton is super pumped to be appearing in *The Wedding Singer* and hopes you all enjoy the 80s fun as much

as she does! Currently attending Columbia College Chicago as a Musical Theater Performance major, her last role there was Ruby in *Dames at Sea*. Other credits include; Marty in *Grease*, Oliver in *Oliver* and Chip in *Beauty and the Beast*, to name a few. She would like to thank the cast and directors for being so awesome to work with - you guys rock! Also, her wonderful family and friends for all their love and support and above all for them allowing her to pursue the best dream ever! Just remember, as Cyndi Lauper says, "If you're lost you can look and you will find me, time after time."

Mandi Corrao [Julia] Mandi is 18 years old and is a recently graduated Senior from Lincoln-way East High School. There, she participated in a large variety of musical ensembles. She has recently been seen in shows such as *Songs For a New World*, *The Sound of Music*, played the role of Esther in *Meet Me in St. Louis* with the Beecher Part Time Players, and most recently played the role of the Baker's Wife in LWE's production of *Into the Woods*. She teaches flute from home and teaches dance at Frankfort Square Park District. She will attend Illinois Wesleyan University in the Fall, majoring in Vocal Performance. Mandi would like to thank all of her wonderful music teachers, all of her new friends at SLATE for giving her this wonderful opportunity, and of course her family and friends, whose endless patience is still a mystery to her!

Shelby Critchett [ensemble] Shelby will be a senior at Alan B. Shepard High School in the fall and what better way to start off her senior year than traveling back to the 80s for an unforgettable love story. Previous shows include *Bye Bye Birdie*, *Beauty in the Beast*, and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. Shelby is ecstatic to be a part of the cast of *The Wedding Singer* and sends her warmest wishes to her cast mates, directors, managers, choreographer, and everyone involved in SLATE. Nothing could have been accomplished without them. She sends hugs and kisses to her family and friends and would not be where she is today without them. This show was loads of fun!

Vasily Deris [Sammy] Vasily is making his SLATE debut. He feels very grateful to be given the opportunity to perform on this stage and with such a great show. He was recently seen with his "magic foot" in NW Indiana's premiere of *25th Annual*

Putnam County Spelling Bee, playing William Barfeé. He also appeared as the Bohemian Tom Collins in the Southside premiere of *Rent* at The Drama Group last fall. Vasily is always thankful to his family and friends for their constant love and support, the amazing crew and production staff for being so welcoming, and thanks to the cast for a memorable summer. Kali Diaskedasi!

Nico Garcia [ensemble] This is Nico's first time on stage with the SLATE program. Nico has been making a name for himself in the Southland community theatre area and has just recently been seen in *City of Angels* as Lt. Munoz/Dancer at The Drama Group, and before that in *Mame* as Junior Babcock and ensemble/dancer for The Drama Group. He would like to give a shout out to his FAMILY and friends who have supported him throughout the years. "Thank you guys so much, especially my mom and dad for sacrificing everything to help me achieve my dreams. Everything I do is fueled by you. I LOVE YOU GUYS!" Nico lives by this quote: "Some people succeed because they are destined to, but most succeed because they are determined to." - Unknown.

Anthony "Alex" Glover [ensemble] Alex Glover has previously appeared in numerous and various roles for such local companies as The Drama Group. Alex is very pleased to be a part of SLATE's second production, *The Wedding Singer*, and would like to thank all his castmates and pals for the excellent memories he will carry away with him.

Dana Griffin [Angie] Dana would like to thank J.R. for the opportunity to perform as Angie. Dana has performed with the Drama Group since 2009. She was in *Aida* as a Washerwoman and ensemble member, in *Mame* as the elevator girl and ensemble member, and in *City of Angels* as an Orderly and Gene. Dana studied vocal music under Sterling Culp and James Parks, and choreography under David Raab at Vandercook College of Music in Chicago. After taking a lengthy break from all performing, Dana studied improv at The Second City training center in Chicago, under Lillie Francis, Bob Kulhan, and Bina Martin. Dana also attended the Piven Theater Workshop, under Bernard Beck for Theater Games and Story, and Joanne Underwood for Introduction to Scene Study. There she was also invited to participate in a Masters Weekend with Adam Mackay, Jeremy Piven, Jessica Thebus, and Sara Ruhl. In 2007 she attended a

digital filmmaking workshop at the New York Film Academy at Disney World where she created her first film short *The Relationship, In One Act*. Dana would like to thank her mother, daughter, and her boyfriend Ray for their love and continuing support.

John Guymon [ensemble] This is John's first experience here at SLATE, and he is very excited to be a part of *The Wedding Singer* with such a talented cast and crew. In the past John has been involved in many shows at the Drama Group, Curtain Call Community Theatre, Illinois Theatre Center, Lincoln-Way East High School, Hickory Creek Middle School, and Brigham Young University. Some of his favorite roles include: The Baker in *Into the Woods*, Snoopy in *You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown*, Curly in *Oklahoma!* and Fagin in *Oliver*. John would sincerely like to thank J.R., Ron, Mary, and Kyle for this wonderful opportunity to do what he loves. And lastly, he would like to thank all of his supportive family members and friends! You guys are the best!

Christopher Kelley [ensemble] Christopher is elated to be a part of *The Wedding Singer* cast! His previous roles include: Theo in *Pippin*, Star to Be in *Annie*, Drake in *Honk!*, Mike Teavee in *Willie Wonka*, and Jojo in *Seussical*, *The Musical*. He also Student Directed such shows as *Ordinary People* and *Kite's Book* at HFHS. He would like to thank J.R. for casting him; John Concepcion for helping him sound the way he does today; Jill Bonavia for teaching him everything he knows; and especially Mom and Dad for their never ending love and support. Let's party like it's 1986!

Nate Krug [Glen] Nathan Krug is pleased to return with SLATE for its second year! In last year's production of *Into the Woods*, he played Rapunzel's Prince. More recently, he performed with the Drama Group in *City of Angels* as part of the Angel City 4. Other past productions include *Camelot*, *Little Shop of Horrors*, and *Godspell* with the Midland Center for the Arts in Midland, Michigan. When not on stage, Nathan can be found in a classroom at Illinois Lutheran in Crete, teaching 5th grade. He is also currently serving as the drama director for Illinois Lutheran High School. He would like to thank his family and friends for putting up with another crazy summer schedule!

Samantha Lewis [ensemble] Samantha Lewis has been thoroughly involved with dancing since she was little, and has participated in musicals since junior high. In her sophomore year of high school they

did the production of *Once On This Island* and she was in the chorus and dance ensemble and simultaneously understudied for Timone the lead. Junior year she played Rose Alvarez in *Bye Bye Birdie*. This is her first year doing community theater and she feels very privileged to be a part of *The Wedding Singer* cast. "It's going to be a great show and I can't wait!" **Anne Litchfield [Holly]** Annie is a graduate of Indiana University where she double majored in Theatre & Drama and Communication & Culture and is super pumped to be in her second SLATE production! Other recent credits include *City of Angels* (Oolie / Donna) *TMI: A True Hollywood Love Story* (Lady Gaga / America's Next Top Model), *Song For a Future Generation* (Marika 1), *Rent* (Maureen), *Into The Woods* (Stepmother). Annie is also the Director of Special Events for The State Theatre of Chicago and in her free time has a full time job as the Candidate Concierge for Smart Resources, Inc. She would like to thank her family for their endless support - even when her character happens to be a lady of the night. "Being young and stupid is what Saturday's are for!"

Charlie Lubeck [Robbie] Charlie is currently a senior at the University of Illinois, pursuing his BFA in Acting. This is Charlie's second production with SLATE, previously appearing as Cinderella's Prince in *Into The Woods*. Past credits include: *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, *Hamlet*, *See What I Wanna See*, *Once on This Island* and *Titanic: A New Musical*. This fall, he will be playing Banquo in U of I's production of *Macbeth*. Thanks to such a wonderful and talented cast, director and crew for helping to make this show and SLATE a success!

Kate Matthews [ensemble] This is Kate Mathew's debut performance with SLATE and she is excited to perform in *The Wedding Singer*. Kate hasn't done theater in over two years and was last seen in the *Wizard of Oz* as the Wicked Witch with her high school group. She also enjoys playing the side-burns lady in the performance of *The Wedding Singer*. Kate attends Prairie State College and spends most of her time working at Olympia Fields Country Club when she is not in school or performing. She thanks her family and best friends for their love and support, and had a great time with the cast of *The Wedding Singer*!

Jim McGrady [ensemble] Jim has been involved with community theater for a long, long time (longer than most of the cast members have been alive, it seems). Over the years, he has been seen on and off

backstage with Spotlight Theater, The Village Players, and Playhouse of Sauk Village. Jim also has directed some high school productions in the region. This is his first SLATE show, and he is looking forward to many more.

Nick Narcisi [George] Theatre credits include: Father Flynn in *Doubt*, Peter in *Prelude to a Kiss*, Wolf/Cinderella's Father in *Into the Woods*, Trevor Graydon in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, and McMurphy in *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*. Nick is so glad he was able to work on *The Wedding Singer*. Nick has been a part of SLATE for the past two years. He is a recent graduate from Homewood-Flossmoor High School and plans on attending the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to study Acting. He would like to thank the following people for giving him the opportunity of being part of this show and supporting him: J.R., Mary, Kyle, Mom, Dad, Ron, Kevin, Macia, Burt, Meryl Streep, Mia, Marty McFly, his Grandparents, the rest of his extended family, the Technicians, Charlie, Bill, Ted, their Excellent Adventure, and the rest of the cast.

John Neubauer [ensemble] John Neubauer is a veteran educator and director but has not been on this side of a production since the last century! A graduate of Millikin University's Music Education program, John has taught public school music for 2 decades, being honored as the Outstanding Contributor to Arts Education in 1998 at the Art Institute of Chicago. During John Neubauer's time at Crete-Monee High School (1993-2001), the Cavaliers and Faces were two of the very best show choirs in the nation, winning the Showstoppers National Invitational at Disney World in 2000 and 2001. Now teaching in north suburban Mundelein, the Mundelein Sound and Mundelein Lights have achieved similar success. John is very happy to be using the skills he's been trying to instill in students as part of *The Wedding Singer* cast.

Jazmyn Reyes [ensemble] Jazmyn is from Goshen, Indiana and will be a senior at Northridge High School. She has been in many musicals. Some favorites include Rosie in *Bye Bye Birdie*, Cinderella in *Into the Woods*, Wizard and Gypsy in *The Wizard of Oz*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *The King and I*, *High School Musical 1* and *H.S.M.2*, and many more. She will be traveling for two years with a traveling performers group after graduating high school and then wants to attend Juilliard,

Eastman or Boston Conservatory, majoring in music or theatre and minoring in teaching.

Jonathan Schaffer [ensemble] Jonathan "Jo" Schaffer is an incoming sophomore student at Homewood-Flossmoor High School, and has enjoyed a successful freshman year in the Speech, Theatre, Music and Creative Writing departments there. Jonathan is making his first appearance on the SLATE stage in the ensemble of *The Wedding Singer*. This past school year he has appeared as Herman E. Calloway in *Bud, Not Buddy* the ensemble in *Pippin*, Flick in an adaptation of *The Ugliest Pilgrim* (Violet), Donald Muller in *Doubt*, and John Romilly in *Kite's Book*. Jonathan would like to thank his faith and his family for his current success, and he looks forward to continuing theatre throughout the rest of his high school career.

Angela Southall [ensemble] "I love taking on new objectives in life because you never know when that specific skill just might land you your dream role or singing gig," quotes Angela. Angela has also had the chance to perform in many venues such as the world famous Showtime at the Apollo in New York along with her sister whom were part of a group together called Choyce, which they still perform at local venues around Chicagoland. Angela possess the passion, talent and determination to continue being successful in the entertainment industry. "I will never give up my will or dream for the arts because it's something that God has put in my heart so that I could be able to touch others with the skills that he has blessed me with."

Latasha Southall [ensemble] Latasha has headlined numerous national showcases including the World Famous Apollo Theater and Columbia College Manifest. Latasha is a member of Choyce, a multi-talented Pop & R&B duo who has performed alongside some of the industry's biggest names. While Latasha's powerful voice reaches in your inner soul and sends you shifting in your seat, singing isn't all that she can do. She spends countless hours practicing with some of the world's best teachers and coaches at Act One Studio, Downtown Chicago.

At Act One studio she has performed in numerous scene plays including, *Rabbit Hole*, *Proof*, and *Spinning into Butter*. She credits her first stage play acting role in the play, *Love Won't Let Go* starring Damon Williams at Governors State University. Latasha credits her relationship with God for her down-to-earth and positive spirit. "I believe that with faith all things are possible; you just have to put your

mind and heart into it, and stay focused on your goals," Latasha concludes.

Joanna Vaickus [ensemble] This is Joanna's first time performing with SLATE Theatre and she is very grateful for the opportunity. Joanna graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Theatre. Past productions include: *Music Man* (Alma Hix), *Bus Stop* (Elma), *The Illustrated Woman* (Jane Ellen) and *A View from the Bridge* (Catherine).

Michelle McKenzie-Voight [Grandma Rosie] Michelle is delighted to be working with SLATE! Recent credits include *Gypsy* (Rose), *Beautiful Thing* (Sandra), *Poseidon: An Upside-Down Musical* (Martha/The Captain), *Pippin* (Leading Player - NIETF nomination), *All Shook Up* (Sylvia), and the title role in *Mame*. Up next: *The Ritz* with Alexandra Billings in Chicago in October. Film credits include *The Guestroom* and the series *The Stalker*, premiering this fall. Michelle is an associate director for *Chicago Tonight* on WTTW and program host for 98.7WFM. Thanks to J.R., Ron, Kyle, Mary, and this uber-talented cast and crew! Love always to son Christopher and husband Don. Remember, move that thang, y'all!

PRODUCTION
STAFF



Mary Coursey Bayle, Choreographer Mary started her training at age 3 in Jacksonville, Florida. She attended Douglas Anderson High School of the Arts as a dance major and studied under Rhonda Stampalia, Dr. Phyllis Penny, Debora Webb, and Ellie Potts Barrett. She continued her education and training at Jacksonville University, receiving her B.F.A. in Dance and collecting numerous awards during her 4 years there, including Excellence in Ballet, Excellence in Performance and the Dean's Award for Dance. She studied under Steven Jenkins, Angie Hollis, and Rosemary Fletcher, as well as many guest artists including Urban Bush Women and Jacques d'Amboise, and performed as a soloist with H.T. Chen and Dancers. Professionally she has danced on Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines performing choreography by Sherry Zunker, and in *Paris Can Can* on the U.S. tour directed by Jeffery B. Moss. She has further continued her studies, receiving a Masters in Performing Arts Management from Columbia College Chicago in 2007. Recently she had the pleasure of choreographing *Thoroughly Modern*

Millie and Pippin at Homewood-Flossmoor Highschool, *Grease* at Fine Arts StageWorks and *Into the Woods* at Governors State University in conjunction with SLATE. Mary has recently relocated to Baton Rouge, LA, where she will serve as the Director of Development and Communication for the Baton Rouge Ballet Theatre.

Ron Bowden, Stage Manager / Lighting Design / Tech Director Ron is very proud of all the work that he and the production team did on this show. This marks the 2nd show he has stage managed, 7th he has designed, and the 2nd show he has technical directed. He has had the privilege of working with some of the best actors, singers, and dancers in the Chicagoland area on this show. He wants first of all to thank God for giving him the strength and PATIENCE to get through this production; his mother for showing never ending strength in all of this; his father for sending his love and support when he could not be present; the rest of his friends and family for their support and patience with him; and J.R. Rose and SLATE for giving him another opportunity to show and develop his talents in the theatrical arts.

Judie Felix, Décor & Props Judie prefers to have this space used for other's bios. That's how she is - selfless and caring. Thanks, Judie!

Marcia J. Gring, Production Manager Marcia recently returned to the theatre world as the Assistant to the Directors in The Drama Group's production of *City of Angels*. With a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre from Northern Illinois University and a Master of Arts in Communications and Training from Governors State University, Marcia brings her coach/training and administrative talents to blend with the creative pursuits of the theatre world. Marcia has played lead roles as Sylvia in *The Tender Trap* at South Suburban College and as Sister Rita in *The Runner Stumbles* at Prairie State College. She has performed in the ensemble for *It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's Superman* at Northern Illinois University and *Bells are Ringing* at Illinois Theatre Center. As a pianist, Marcia has served as Musical Director for *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* at South Suburban College and Wolcott Jr. High, *Stop the World, I Want to Get Off* at South Suburban College and *Annie, Get Your Gun* at Illinois Theatre Center.

Diana Principe, Costumer Diana started making costumes for The Drama Group in 2002 and has created costumes for *Cinderella*, *Pippin*, *Gypsy*,

Encore 75, *Kismet*, *Nine*, *The Full Monty*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, *Seven Brides for Seven Brothers*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Little Women*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Aida*, *Seussical the Musical*, *Mame*, *Glass Menagerie* and most recently *City of Angels*. This year Diana's had several opportunities to costume some of the area High School productions, including Homewood Flossmoor's *Doubt*, Lincoln-Way West's *You're a Good Man Charlie Brown* and *Guys and Dolls* at Lincoln-Way North. Last summer she costumed for SLATE's inaugural production of *Into the Woods*. "To SLATE and J.R. Rose - I appreciate the opportunity to costume *The Wedding Singer*, one of my favorite shows. I am grateful for the support of my family. And to all of those who have helped with costumes along the way - Thank You!"

J.R. Rose, Director J.R. is thrilled to be back heading up another SLATE production after last year's *Into the Woods*. J.R. is a theatre and English teacher and theatre director at Homewood-Flossmoor High School. In 2006, he was honored at the Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel Awards as the outstanding early career educator for the state of Illinois. He has had the honor of directing twice internationally; in 2007 his production of *Once on this Island* was selected to perform at the prestigious Fringe Festival in Edinburgh, Scotland, and in 2008, his production of *Proof*, originally staged at the Chicago Heights Drama Group, was transferred for a run at the Stables Theatre in Hastings, England. J.R. will be directing *The 25th Annual Putnum County Spelling Bee* later this month at HF, and the hit musical *Grey Gardens* at the Drama Group in February. Favorite directing credits include: *Titanic*, *Ragtime*, *Medea*, *Shakespeare's R&J*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Doubt*, *Prelude to a Kiss*, and *Black Comedy*. While teaching and directing are his passion, J.R.'s first love was acting. He was seen as Ito in *Mame*, Gaston in *Beauty and the Beast*, Jud Fry in *Oklahoma*, David in *Company* and the feature film, *Were the World Mine*. Thanks to the entire GSU and CPA staff for this amazing opportunity. To my phenomenal production staff, cast and crew - this has truly been a blast! Special thanks to Anne, Charlie, Ron, and Nick. It is an honor to have been your teacher, and even greater honor continuing to work with you as you begin your careers. You make me so proud.

Kyle Severson, Music Director This is Kyle Theatre and Des Moines Metro Opera. In the Severson's second show as Music Director with Chicago area he has worked with many companies. SLATE, as served the same role for the inaugural performance of *Into the Woods*. Kyle is Director of Performing Arts, Northlight Theatre, Organic Theatre, Choirs and 4-12 Music Educator at Iroquois West Chicago Opera Theatre, Light Opera Works, The CUSD #10. In addition to overseeing four curricular Opera Factory, and Harpo Studios. Kevin attended choirs, he has started an auditioned chamber choir and a middle school world drumming ensemble. He also recently directed and/or conducted *Willy Wonka* at Iroquois West and *Beauty and the Beast* at Moline High School. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Arts, *summa cum laude*, in Vocal Music Education from Augustana College (IL) where he was awarded numerous honors, including the prestigious Presser Scholar Award and induction into the national music honor society, Pi Kappa Lambda. He thanks all the cast and pit for their hard work!

Kevin Wall, Scenic Design Kevin maintains a demanding schedule as a director, designer, educator, and creative artist. A sampling of Kevin's national and international directing and design credits include The Royal Academy of Dramatic Art, The Children's Theatre of Minneapolis, touring productions of *Sesame Street Live* and *Muppet Babies Live*, the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC 4), The National Film and Television Institute of England, the National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC), Portland Opera (Oregon), The Heartland Festival, The Wayside Theatre (an equity summer stock theatre in Virginia), the Great Midwestern Educational Theatre Association, the American Alliance for Theatre and Education and the Illinois Theatre Association. As an educator, Mr. Wall served on the staff of the Department of Theatre and Dance at Northwestern University and later joined the theatre staff at National-Louis University. Kevin regularly directs, designs and teaches at the high school and middle school levels, having taught theatre at Francis Parker School, the Evanston Public School System, and was Director of Theatre at Niles West High School. Kevin holds a M.Ed., M.A. and a B.A. in Theatre Performance. Kevin is on the theatre faculty at Homewood Flossmoor High School.

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A word from the Director...

The Wedding Singer marks the 2nd summer production by the Southland Area Theatre Ensemble (SLATE) at Governor's State University following last year's smash hit *Into the Woods*. In a time when many Americans are struggling to come to terms with their lives in a failing economy, we felt it was important to do a show that does what theatre is supposed to do: entertain - just plain make people smile. Based on the hit film starring Adam Sandler and Drew Barrymore, *The Wedding Singer* puts to music and dance the classic story of boy meets girl and sets it in the 1980's, which, yes... is now considered "period". Who can help but laugh when remembering The Reagans, New Coke, parachute pants, crimped hair, big bangs, tacky clothes, and MTV.

We have a very talented ensemble of actors, musicians and production staff who have spent countless hours this summer rehearsing what you will see tonight. What makes this production truly special are these people. They come from all walks of life and all over Chicagoland. We have teachers, nurses, personal trainers, TV producers, construction workers, students, bartenders, secretaries, and of course people who are still looking for work... they come from Chicago, Indiana, many southwest suburbs, and even Evanston to be a part of something that brings them passion and joy in the hopes of bringing that same passion and joy to you - our audience. In addition, SLATE makes a commitment every year to make sure that we include young theatre artists. This year we have several high school and college age students who are onstage and backstage honing their craft. Thank you for being the final and most important part of our process. Now, sit back, take out your shoulder pads, unroll the ankles of your jeans and get ready to laugh!

- J.R. Rose

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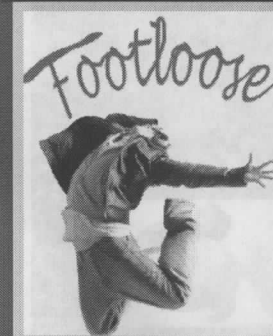
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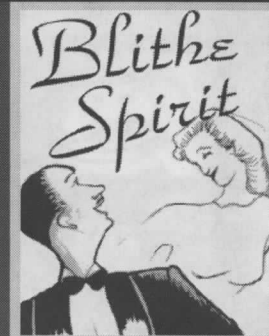
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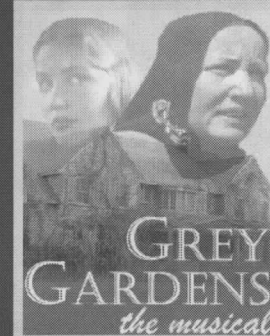
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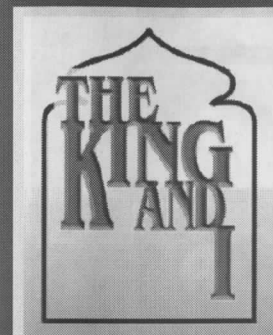
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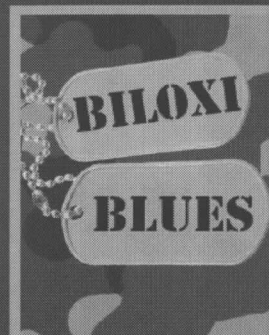
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